
DATE: Monday, July 07, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in special session Monday, July 07, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT AFTER ROLL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Femi Fletcher, Elizabeth Hannan, Larry Boone, Vince Gustafson, Kevin Garcia, Brearden Belcher, Seok Hyun Cho, Matt Roeschley, John Zeman, Carmen Franks

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Courtwright, Executive Director of C-U at Home; Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director of Champaign County Healthcare Consumers; and Lisa Benson, Community Services Director of Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:02p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- a. 06-02-2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. 06-02-2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- c. 06-09-2025 City Council Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Williams stated Brearden Belcher, Grants Division Manager will be presenting on upcoming grants under the Staff Reports section.

4. Presentations and Public Input

None.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Quisenberry stated constituents have raised concerns regarding the City website no longer displaying the emails of Councilmembers and directs the public to a contact form instead. Asked the Mayor and IT Department to reconsider having the emails for Councilmembers plainly written on the City website.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Christopher Evans, Ward 2*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-06-056R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Champaign County Health Care Consumers – Public Benefits Navigation, Application, and Enrollment Services Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with the Champaign County Health Care Consumers as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,000 to fund the Public Benefits Navigation, Application, and Enrollment Services Program.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-06-057R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Champaign-Urbana Public Health District – Free Friday Market Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Champaign-Urbana Public Health District as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$29,952 to fund the Free Friday Market Program.

- c. **Resolution No. 2025-06-041R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Crisis Nursery – Safe Children Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Crisis Nursery as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,000 to fund the Safe Children Program.

- d. **Resolution No. 2025-06-042R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Cunningham Children’s Home – Residential Treatment Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Cunningham Children’s Home as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$20,000 to fund the Residential Treatment Program.

- e. **Resolution No. 2025-06-043R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club – RIDES (Reach, Inspire, Develop, Empower, Support) Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$20,070 to fund the RIDES Program.

- f. **Resolution No. 2025-06-044R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County – Financial Capability and Stability Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$25,000 to fund the Financial Capability and Stability Program.

- g. **Resolution No. 2025-06-045R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – The Land Connection – Farmers Market Benefits Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with The Land Connection as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$33,475 to fund the Farmers Market Benefits Program.

- h. **Resolution No. 2025-06-047R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Sola Gratia Farm – Free Friday Market Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Sola Gratia Farm as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,964 to fund the Free Friday Market Program.

- i. **Resolution No. 2025-06-048R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center – Technology Empowerment & Access Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,000 to fund the Technology Empowerment & Access Program.

- j. **Resolution No. 2025-06-049R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center – After-school Enrichment Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,000 to fund the After-school Enrichment Program.

- k. Resolution No. 2025-06-050R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center – College & Career Readiness Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$20,000 to fund the College & Career Readiness Program.

- l. Resolution No. 2025-06-051R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana Park District – Youth Scholarship Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Urbana Park District as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$10,000 to fund the Youth Scholarship Program.

- m. Resolution No. 2025-06-052R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana School District #116 – Farm to School Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with Urbana School District #116 (USD #116) as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$34,500 to fund the Farm to School Program.

- n. Resolution No. 2025-06-053R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana School District #116 – Tiger Academy Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with USD #116 as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$11,035.06 to fund the Tiger Academy Program.

- o. Resolution No. 2025-06-054R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Urbana School District #116 – Urbana Sixth Grade Center Splash Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with USD #116 as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$30,000 to fund the Urbana Sixth Grade Center Splash Program.

- p. Resolution No. 2025-06-055R:** A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 2 to an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission – Housing Navigation Program – HOME ARP FY2021/2022 – CD

The Resolution approves an amendment to the Urbana HOME Consortium subrecipient agreement with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to extend the agreement term from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-06-046R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Services Grant Agreement – Rape Advocacy, Counseling & Education Services (RACES) – Survivor Services Trauma Therapy Program – CD

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement with RACES as part of the City’s Community Services Grant Program for \$50,000 to fund the Survivor Services Trauma Therapy Program.

Motion to approve by CM Evans, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: Kolisetty

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

- a. **Housing and Homeless Innovations Round II Grant Program – CD**

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager with Melissa Courtwright, Executive Director of C-U at Home; Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director of Champaign County Healthcare Consumers; and Lisa Benson, Community Services Director of Champaign County Regional Planning Commission present for questions. Breaden Belcher provided background on the Housing and Homeless Innovations Grant Program (HHI) that began as a collaboration in 2022 between the City of Urbana and the City of Champaign to address the needs of households experiencing homelessness in Urbana and Champaign County. Stated over \$7,000,000 in funding has been committed to the HHI program since 2022, supporting affordable housing development, shelter, homelessness prevention, and case management services throughout the pandemic.

Shared a graph illustrating homeless data from 2014 to 2024 in Champaign County, pointing to a steady increase in homelessness in recent years. Stated from 2022 to 2024, homelessness increased by 103% in Champaign County. Stated homelessness will likely worsen in future years with likely reductions to federal grant funding. Stated the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) count was held in January 2025 and 355 households were reported to be homeless, an increase from the 279 households counted in 2024. Shared demographic data regarding homeless households in Champaign County and stated homelessness impacts more people of color as seen in the 2014-2024 data and the 2025 PIT.

Spoke on the initial HHI round of funding in 2022 with \$5,857,000 available from various sources across Urbana and the City of Champaign and \$2,491,409 was awarded to seven organizations. Shared the accomplishments from the first HHI round, stating 1,389 households were assisted with supportive services, 141 households received rental assistance, and shelter services were improved.

Stated the second round of HHI applications were open from January 6, 2025, to February 5, 2025, with \$2,200,000 available in funding with operating and capacity building support now

being offered. Stated a review committee, comprised of City staff and community partners reviewed applications. Broke down the sources of funding across HOME ARP, Illinois DCEO, Urbana ARPA, and Urbana General Fund.

Stated staff and the HHI review committee recommended providing \$2,195,000 in funding to six organizations with a deadline to expend the funds by December 31, 2026. Provided background regarding the following recommended projects:

Organization	Project	Amount
Champaign County Healthcare Consumers	Special Populations Outreach & Enrollment	\$130,000
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission	Emergency Family Shelter – Comfort Corner	\$175,000
City of Champaign Township Strides Shelter	Operating & Case Management Services	\$180,000
Cunningham Township	CARES & Bridge to HOME Program	\$200,000
C-U at Home	Mattis Avenue Mid-Barrier Shelter	\$320,000
First Followers	Wiley/Webber Affordable Housing Developments	\$190,000
Champaign County Healthcare Consumers	Hope Village	\$1,000,000

Clarified the Hope Village application was submitted during the first round of HHI funding but could not be supported at that time due to it being in early stages of its development and the requirements for funding have now been met.

Stated \$605,000 of the recommended funding is toward supportive service programs, \$300,000 is toward homeless shelter development, \$1,100,000 is toward affordable rental housing development, and \$100,000 is toward operating & capacity building support. Stated the recommended programs are projected to assist 500 individuals connect to public benefits and resources, 200 will receive street outreach support, 600 will receive case management services, 35 affordable rental units will be created, and 32 shelter beds will be created. Questions and discussion followed.

10. Mayoral Appointments

a. Mayoral Staff Appointment

Director of Community Development Services

– Olivia Jovine (term ending June 30, 2027)

Presented by Mayor Williams and Femi Fletcher, Human Resources Manager with Olivia Jovine present for questions. Mayor Williams provided background on Olivia Jovine’s accomplishments and qualifications. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

b. ***Board and Commission Reappointments***

Civil Service Commission

– Traci E. Nally (term ending June 30, 2028)

Plan Commission

– Will Andresen (term ending June 30, 2028)

Presented by Mayor Williams.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 8/4/25